question did not arise in the matter of assistance to be rendered by the Allies for an Italian offensive.

We could supply a certain number of trucks for the transport of guns to the Italian Front, and the operation which I proposed on that front was one which could be carried out without any demand upon shipping.

I therefore strongly urged that my proposal should be examined by the General Staffs. *I pointed out however, that this was not enough, and that it would never be carried out unless Ministers themselves took the matter in hand, and insisted on its being considered favourably.* It was contrary to human nature for General Sir Douglas Haig to say that General Cadorna's front was more important than his own ; and conversely, you could not expect General Cadorna to say that the British Front was more important than the Italian.

I then read the following resolution :—

My proposed resolution for an Italian offensive

" The Conference are impressed with the advantages afforded by the Italian Front for a combined offensive by the three Western Allies, which are as follows :—

1. It would relieve the pressure on Russia, Roumania and the Balkans.

2. It would attack the enemy on a front where his forces are weaker in numbers, quality, and equipment, than at any other point accessible

to the Allied Armies of the West.

3. It might enable the Allies to capture Trieste, which would bring important political advantages.